

die out. Wherever the line is to be drawn it would appear that there is need that our lists be more carefully kept, than is usually the case, for the purpose of determining for a given species what are the satisfactory or the necessary food conditions.

All of the above has probably been stated by others in a much more satisfactory manner than in the present instance. The writer wishes to emphasize this matter, in connection with the subject of this paper, in order to urge that our entomological records be so kept that those who may in the future be engaged in investigations concerning the food of insects, from the chemical standpoint, may have helpful and, in so far as possible, accurate and reliable data at their disposal.

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THREE HUNDRED AND TENTH MEETING, FEBRUARY 7, 1918.

A NOTE ON *CHALCIS ABIESAE* GIRAULT (HYM. CHALCIDIDAE).

BY S. A. ROHWER,

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*Chalcis ovata abiesae* Girault, *Descriptiones Stellarum novarum*, 1917, p. 19. (This is a privately published leaflet dealing with descriptions of new chalcids.)

The form which Mr. Girault described as variety *abiesae* may perhaps better be treated as a species. Besides the characters given in the description this form differs from the typical eastern form in the closer punctures on the scutum, in having the median lower notch in the carina defining the antennal foveae broader and U-shaped, and in having the syraclypeal carina less strongly arched medianly; these characters hold for a series bearing the same data as the type series and also for a series collected at Palo Alto, California on the foliage of *Quercus agrifolia*, by F. B. Herbert.

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DESCRIPTION OF A NEW HYMENOPTEROUS PARASITE  
(BRACONIDAE).

BY A. B. GAHAN,

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The new species of *Microbracon* described below is, according to Mr. C. N. Ainslie, an important parasite of the western grass-stem sawfly, *Cephus cinctus*.

**Microbracon cephi**, new species.

This species resembles *M. lixi* Ashmead and *M. furtivus* Fyles but may be distinguished by the shorter ovipositor. The male is very similar to *M. rhyssemati* Ashmead but may be separated by the longer antennae and smoother propodeum. The cocoons of *rhyssemati* are dark brown with thicker walls than in this new species which has pale parchment-like cocoons, squarely truncate at each end and placed singly in the burrows of its host.

*Female*.—Length 4.1 mm. Antennae 38-jointed in the type; frons and face very delicately and faintly shagreened, remainder of head and thorax polished; propodeum faintly sculpture at posterior middle on each side of the incomplete median carina; abdominal tergites all granularly opaque; suturiform atriculation deep, crenulate, and scarcely at all angled at the middle but curving forward slightly at the margins of segment; ovipositor exerted not over half the length of abdomen. Color reddish testaceous; antennae, eyes, ocelli, ovipositor sheaths, apex of hind tibiae, their tarsi, and the apical joint of fore and medium tarsi black or blackish; wings subhyaline, the stigma blackish, venation brownish.

*Male*.—Length 3.5 mm. Antennae 40-jointed in the allotype, and distinctly longer than the body; posterior tibiae and their tarsi only slightly infuscated; otherwise like the female.

*Type locality*.—Bottineau, North Dakota.

*Type*.—Cat. No. 21772, United States National Museum.

*Host*.—Larva of *Cephus cinctus* Norton.

Type and one female paratype reared by Mr. Ainslie from *Cephus cinctus* infesting stems of *Agropyron* and recorded under Webster No. 14788. Allotype and a male paratype bear Webster No. 13734 and were reared by the same collector at Minot, North Dakota from the same host in stems of *Elymus*. Two female paratypes are from the same host in stems of *Bromus* from Rugby, North Dakota, and are recorded under Webster No. 14786. One female paratype was reared by Mr. Norman Criddle at Treesbank, Manitoba, from *Cephus cinctus* in the stems of *Elymus canadensis* and is recorded under Webster No. 14788.

The last mentioned paratype has the head above the mesoscutum for the most part and the propodeum blackish, showing that the species is variable in color.

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**SOME MUSCOID SYNONYMY, WITH ONE NEW GENUS.**

BY CHARLES H. T. TOWNSEND.

The following synonymic notes have been held in manuscript for a year and should be published without further delay.

**Xenoppia hypopygialis** Towns.—Synonym, *Camptopyga aristata* Ald., Sarc. & Allies, 41-3, genus and species.